

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a mechanical joint, said method comprising the

following steps:

taking a first elongated member, and forming an opening depending from one edge of said member, ~~said opening being formed by cutting into and removing material from said first elongated member~~ to leave a band of material at said opening to reveal an interior surface of said first elongated member;

positioning a second member in said opening so that said interior surface mates therewith;
and

moving the first elongated member to move first and second edges of said opening towards one another to a degree to trap and engage the second member in said opening.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9 wherein said first and second edges

are respectively moved so as to substantially close said opening and hence retain said second member ~~or insert~~ in position in said opening.

11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9 wherein said opening is completely closed by the provision of a closing member.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9 wherein said second member ~~insert~~ is a former retained in position in said opening ~~and to which said second member is connected~~.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9 wherein said opening is completely closed by the provision of weld material

19. (Currently Amended) A mechanical joint according to Claim ~~1~~ 9 wherein a forming means is provided initially in said opening and is subsequently moved out of said opening and replaced by said second member ~~insert~~ which is held in position in said opening in said first member to form the mechanical joint.

20. (Canceled)